SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1907.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail. Postpaid DAILY, Per Month. DAILY, Per Year ... s oo best, would it not be as well to publish SUNDAY, Per Year .. 2 00 their scores to the world as to conceal DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8 00 them by official order? We are told in DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month. Presidential messages that the surest Postage to foreign countries added. guaranty of peace is a fleet of first class

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York

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Initiative and Referendum.

Mr. BRYAN likes hi new toy-new to him. He is preaching to the Nutmegs the gospel of the initiative and referendum. His language is characteristically ardent:

"Initiative and referendum are its? I in line with popular government. The man who attacks the theory of it is gullty of treason.

A new definition of treason, but Mr. BRYAN has done with government under the Constitution, done with the Constitution as it stands. The whole theory and practice of the Federal Government will have to be changed radically if his programme is to prevail. He regards the representative as "a necessary evil." He wants immediate direct popular government. How government by petition and town meeting is to apply to the whole United States he doesn't explain. What works well in Toad Hill may be a little unsuited for the affairs of eighty millions. But Mr. BRYAN will attend to that with this abracadabra-and these words of power, with this clixir of life and philosopher's stone and grand secret. We don't doubt that he is as wise as he ever was. We merely mention that this imported Swiss notion of his can't be used so far as Federal matters are concerned until the Constitution has been thoroughly reorganized and made thoroughly populistic.

For Mr. BRYAN is still a Middle of the Road Populist; and if he is any kind of Democrat he is a Social Democrat In 1900, the national platform of the So cial Democrats anticipated Mr. BRYAN not only in the "demand" for the public ownership of railroads, telegraphs and telephones, but in the "demand" for the adoption of the initiative and referen dum. By 1908, perhaps Mr. BRYAN, with his genius for assimilation, will be howling with the Social Democrats for "the cooperative commonwealth "

Seven years ago next month the Middle of the Road Populists met at Cincinnati and nominated WHAETON BARKER for President and IGNATIUS DONNELLY for Vice-President. These Middle of the Roaders demanded the initiative and referendum. They howled for "the publie ownership and operation of those means of communication, transportation and production, such as the people may elect"; also for the election of President, Vice-President, Federal Judges and United States Senators by direct vote of the people. Mr. BRYAN is "with" these irreconcilables as to the election of Federal Judges and Senators. Presumably his views of direct popular government will make him favor the direct election of President and Vice-President.

In 1904 the Socialists who rallied around our venerated friend DEBS cried for "popular government, including initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the recall of public officers. In the same year was heard the voice of the Populists, who nominated Tom WATSON and TOM TIBBLES:

" As a means of placing all public questions directly under the control of the people we demand that legal provision be made under which the neo ple may exercise the juitiative and referendum and proportional representation and direct vote for all public officers, with the right of recall." Our excellent friends the Drys, politi-

cal philosophers of the eclectic school, enrich their platforms with this boon. It will be seen that Mr. BRYAN is in picturesque, if not democratic, company. Ten or fifteen years ago some Western

poet, unknown, but a bard with bowels. paid this tribute to what was then an obscure patent medicine for the salvation of the country:

" Our evils it will end 'um. Our troubles it will mend 'um. Our rights it will defend 'um: Initiative and referendum!"

Who would have thought in those days of its derision that Mr. BRYAN would snatch this "principle" from the hands of Social Democrats and his fellow Populists and try to make it - next to Government ownership of railroads-the cornerstone of the creed which he seeks to impose upon the Democracy?

Why Not Publish the Scores?

Rear Admiral Evans is enthusiastic about the gun practice of the powerful Atlantic fleet which he commands, but he is not allowed by the Navy Department to give out the scores. They must be exceptionally brilliant, for we read that the least improvement by any ship cise time during the existence of the at the Guantanamo range was seventeen per cent. compared with the last year's totals, and that on one ship the improvement was one hundred per cent., although five feet had been cut from the top of the sions, to which will be added \$3,750,000 target, which previously had been seventeen feet high by twenty-one feet wide. The range was two thousand yards, and the firing was done as each ship steamed | twelvemonth be reduced by \$85,000,000 by at a speed of ten knots. All that we the Chancellor of the Exchequer exknow about the competition this year. Secretary METCALF having enjoined the utmost secrecy, is that the battleship old age pensions. He declares, more-Illinois carried off the honors. And we over, that in the sphere of finance the are told:

" Officers stationed at Washington are confident there is no many in the world that, ship for ship, for social reform. Such assurances do can shoot as straight and as fast as the American navy."

This we are all ready to believe, for we have been told repeatedly that no men behind the guns shoot as well as our men. gramme are those whose incomes are The Britishers on the China station sometimes laim a record, but it is received no change in the income tax so far as with profound scepticism, or dismissed inherited or otherwise unearned incomes for occupations which those others have

with the explanation that ten hits out of are concerned, but earned incomes of less twelve shots under the English rules is not as good a performance as one of our records, because the English target conditions are more favorable to high scores than the American test. We allow that the British gunners may be a fair second to ours, but we have a rather poor opinion of the marksmanship of the Japanese Germans and French.

battleships, and plenty of them. Ob-

viously that guaranty would become

stronger if other nations knew that our

of the world. A record with the twelve

inch gun would be particularly impres-

sive, for it would mean, other things being

equal, that it would be folly for a nation

of equal naval strength and a continuous-

a war upon the United States, and a na-

tion with a stronger navy on paper might

navy. It is true that nations unequally

becoming more and more scientific?

NEGIE's congress, for every little helps.

The New British Budget.

There were many reasons why the

budget for the fiscal year 1907-08, which

on April 18 was submitted to the House

of Commons by Mr. ASQUITH, Chancellor

of the Exchequer, was awaited with

peculiar interest. It is really the first

Liberal budget presented since 1895, for

that of last year was practically a legacy

from the Balfour Government. Then,

too, each of the three classes of taxpay-

ers-the rich, the earners of moderate

ncomes and the relatively poor-hoped

that its burdens would be diminished,

those of the first through a curtailment

of the death duty, those of the second

through preferential treatment in the

neidence of the income tax, and those

f the third through a reduction of indi-

rect taxation and the immediate pro-

vision of old age pensions. The first

and third classes, as we shall see, have

reason to feel acutely disappointed, the

middle class alone finding its hopes

The prosperity enjoyed by the United

Kingdom during the last twelvemonth is

attested by the fact that instead of the

estimated deficit of \$230,000 for the fiscal

year 1906-07 there is a surplus of nearly

\$27,000,090. The surplus would have been

even larger but for the notable decline

in the revenue from alcoholic beverages.

which has gone on since 1899, and has

not yet been arrested. The revenue

ence of the slackness of operations on

of the mails. These losses were more

than made up, however, by unanticipated

death duties and by increased receipts

from the coal duty and the mint. The

surplus for the fiscal year 1907-08 is now

estimated at \$17,165,000, but is likely to

Few persons on this side of the Atlantic

are aware of the magnitude of the income

drawn by the British Exchequer from the

death duty instituted by Sir WILLIAM

HARCOURT in 1895. The aggregate sum

derived from this source during the last

year was \$95,000,000, and during the

twelve years for which the inheritance

tax has been operative it has vielded

\$1,005,000,000. Even the present death

duty, which levies 10 per cent. on the net

estate left by very wealthy men, proved

so embarrassing to the present Duke of

RUTLAND that on his father's death last

year he had to close his principal resi-

dence. Instead of reducing, however,

the inheritance tax on the estates of

very rich men, Mr. Asquith proposes to

increase it. Hereafter estates valued at

\$3,750,000 and up to \$5,000,000 will pay

10 per cent., but on estates of \$10,000,000

14 per cent, will be levied on the second

\$5,000,000, while on estates of \$15,000,000

or more 10 per cent, will be levied on

the first \$5,000,000 and 15 per cent on

every other five millions. It is obvious

that the imposition of this tax would

cause a great shrinkage in such estates

as those of the Duke of WESTMINSTER,

the Duke of BEDFORD, the Duke of

PORTLAND and particularly Mr. WILLIAM

To the disgust of that large class of

the British population which is exempted

from the payment of an income tax.

there is to be no reduction of indirect

taxation. What one of their chief

spokesmen, Mr. KEIR HARDIE, especially

resents, however, is Mr. Asquith's fail-

ure to outline the expected scheme of old

age pensions, or even to name the pre-

present Parliament when such a scheme

will be proposed. He has agreed, how-

ever, to set aside next year \$7,500,000 as

the nucleus of a fund for old age pen-

of as yet uncollected arrears of this

year's income tax. As the national

debt will in the course of the coming

presses the hope that larger additions

may be made hereafter to the fund for

Government regards old age pensions

as the most urgent of all the demands

not satisfy the representatives of labor,

The only persons who apparently are

content with Mr. Asquirm's fiscal pro-

moderate and earned. There is to be

who declare the budget "brutal."

WALDORF ASTOR.

be considerably greater if British indus-

try and trade continue to flourish.

from stamps also has fallen off in conse-

fulfilled.

evasion are to be increased. Owing to the overwhelming majority of the Liberals in the House of Commons Assuming that our gunners are the best it is improbable that any material changes in Mr. Asquith's budget will be made. in the world, just as our riflemen are the

than \$10,000 a year will hereafter pay

an income tax less by six cents on the

pound sterling than that now imposed.

It will be made compulsory, however, on

every one receiving an income tax form

to make a return, and the penalties for

Investigating President Ahearn. Neither Governor Hughes nor Corporation Counsel Ellison agrees with the lawyers employed by President AHEARN of the Borough of Manhattan in the opinion that the Commissioners of Accounts have no authority to investigate gunners were the champion marksmen his office by summoning employees and compelling them to answer questions. Hitherto the power of the Commissioners has not been questioned. In Mayor STRONG'S term they overhauled one county office, and under Mayor VAN ly inferior record at the targets to force WYCK they assisted the Finance Department in one of its rows with the Board of Education. The Commissioners obtain well hesitate to try conclusions with our whatever authority they may have from Section 119 of the Charter:

matched have often made war upon each The Mayor shall appoint and remove at pleasure other, but can it be denied that the inclitwo persons who shall be Commissioners of Ac nation of an inferior nation is to avoid counts, one of whom shall be a certified publi war in a period when naval warfare is accountant. . . . They shall also make such special examinations of the accounts and methods of the departments and offices of the city . . . Arbitration is helpful in preventing as the Mayor may from time to time direct, and such war, but after all we have not as much other examinations as the said commissioners may faith in its efficacy as in thick armor, big deem for the best interests of the city. . . . For guns and straight shooting men behind he purpose of ascertaining facts in connection with he guns. Then why make a dark closet these examinations they shall have full power to secret of their skill? Really this question ompel the attendance of witnesses, to administer of suppressing target scores might have oaths and to examine such persons as they may been brought up with good results by a deem necessary." practical delegate at Mr. ANDREW CAR-It is difficult to see on what reasonable

ground it can be held that the Commissioners are without power over a Borough President and all his subordinates. It will hardly be asserted that the presidency of a borough is not a city office, and the language of the Charter is not obscure in enumerating the powers of the Commissioners. The objection, that the proposed investigation is a fishing expedition does not seem to have much weight. The popular name for the Commissioners is "the Mayor's detectives," and in the past they have been assigned to numerous tasks which were carried on without definite leads, but merely to unearth whatever might be found. That the Corporation Counsel has admitted that the result of an investigation might be a request to the Governor to remove Mr. AHEARN from office -an admission of which Mr. AHEARN'S counsel has made much-does not affect the powers of the Commissioners either. The Governor may remove a Borough President in the manner provided in the Constitution for the removal of a Sheriff. and the fact that he might be asked to exercise the power because of something disclosed by the Commissioners of Accounts would not tie the hands of those officers. The Governor has the same power of removal over the Mayor. Would Mr. AHEARN assert that this fact estopped the Comptroller, for instance, from disclosing irregularities in the office of the city's chief executive officer?

Mr. Gompers's Opportunity.

the Stock Exchange, and the fact that an opportunity as seems likely to knock the telephone is superseding the use at the door of Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS within the next few weeks. President ROOSEVELT, ANDREW CARNEGIE and other statesmen and philanthropists have addressed the peace conference in words of eloquence. That they are sincere no one can deny. Given the power, they would usher in the régime of brotherly love. But they can only plead by precept or through the moving agency of high example. Vast possibilities are within their reach, no doubt. They can do much to fan or quench the flames that lead to massacre and barbarism. Nevertheless it is Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS, and he alone in all that bright galaxy of philosophers, who can by a determined exercise of authority unleash the dogs of

war or hold them quiet in their kennels. Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS commands a great army-an army larger than either Russia or Japan put into active service four years ago. He commands those untold thousands as absolutely as any famous chieftain ever did his followers, It is true that he does not take the field in person. He does not figure in the front of glittering battalions or plan with gigantic circumvallations the movement of innumerable cohorts and the shock of dreadful impacts. Mr. Gom-PERS wears no feathers or gold lace. It is a fact, notwithstanding, that thousands upon thousands of armed and homicidal men obey his lightest signal. He can uphold our civilization or at his pleasure speed the avalanche of savagery. At his dictation and by his contrivance peace, order and good will among men may be established in this country from one ocean to the other and from the Lakes to the Caribbean Sea. He can restore the personal liberty of millions of American citizens, redeem the pledges of the Fathers, rescue the Declaration of Independence from dishonor and contempt, and make the United States in fact what it has been for many sad and miserable years in theory only, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

According to all accounts and indications Opportunity is advancing upon Mr. GOMPERS with giant strides. Throughout the land there is the foreboding murmur of a far reaching strike. Countless thousands of men are to quit work, abandon the enterprises in which they are engaged and with the wage whereof they have been maintaining innumerable wives and helpless children. Mr. Gompens, we are told, encourages them herein and appeals to still other thousands to resign employment and emolument by way of 'sympathy." It is clearly the right of the workingman to choose for himself. This presumably is a free country and no one can be compelled to labor against his will and preference. Up to this point Mr. GOMPERS and his followers occupy an unassailable position. But when these walk out, in pursuance of their undoubted privilege, and others willing to work. anxious to earn an honest livelihood and to support dependent families-when the latter appear upon the scene, applying

voluntarily relinquished and claiming a MR. RYAN'S AFRICAN CONCESprivilege guaranteed them by the founders of the Republic-what will Mr. SAM-

UEL GOMPERS do?

Here is Opportunity with glowing eyes, and prayerful invitation in both hands. If Mr. GOMPERS wants peace at home, and if his solicitudes be not wholly concentrated upon foreign lands and in altogether academic theories, he has at his disposal the occasion for a splendid and memorable demonstration. He has only to say the word. He can reinstate the rights and the brotherhood of man. He can forbid violence, insure order and set righteousness and civilization upon a long vacant

What more can Mr. Gompers ask for his glory and his immortality? In a speech to the conference the other day he said that courage was needed in these times by those who stood for peace. Now comes to him the offer of the double crown of Courage and Beneficence!

The Haytian navy is not as black as it is painted; it is usually commanded by a rough and ready Britisher, perhaps a Scot with a burr; and the Vice-Admiral that Hayti sends to Jamestown will probably be an old salt whom Rear Admiral ROBLEY D. Evans will find congenial. The Haytian Admiral is not likely to dispute precedence with anybody.

At last accounts the Haytian navy cor sisted of a flotilla of nondescripts. There was the third class cruiser Crête-a-Pierrot, 940 tons, carrying "one 6.3 inch De Bange gun, one 4.7 inch ditto, four 4 inch ditto, and six light guns"; the gunboat Capoisla-Mort, the Toussaint L'Ouverture and the Dessalines, vessels well named but not always in commission; the sloops 1804 and St. Michael, and the gun vessel 22d of December. The Haytian navy is not a fixed quantity; the engineer force varies, and the supply of enlisted men goes up and down, generally down. The story that the Government may have to borrow a ship to put Wice-Admiral on is plausible, and it would be a friendly act of the United States to lend Hayti the Monongahela or the Arethusa for the occasion.

For fifty-five Carnegie library sites the ity has paid \$2,053,793.15. It was estimated n 1902 that the seventy-eight parcels of real estate needed could be bought for \$2,000,000. There remain twenty-three sites to be purchased, and these will cost at the present real estate values \$859,088.87.

The Hon, JAMES WOLCOTT WADSWORTH late a Representative in Congress from the Genesee region, permits himself to use unseemly and contumelious language about the President. Mr. ROOSEVELT has removed or called for the resignation of certain Federal officeholders in the district formerly epresented by Mr. WADSWORTH. That statesman, the bitterness of whose words is too keen to be reproduced in full, emits this plaint in criticism:

" President ROOSEVELT's removal of certain Fed eral officeholders in western New York State is such a flagrant violation of the precepts he has always laid down about his intention to retain efficient mer in the public service that I am led to believe tha he was merely faking when he announced these

This is unjust. It shows an entire mis apprehension of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S position. His spear knows no brother. Mr. Wads-WORTH made the mistake of imagining that he was not in the House to carry out Mr. ROOSEVELT'S ideas of legislation. He even dared to write and speak disobediently of that final source of all law and fact. WADSWORTH has been properly punished. Yet he rises, still ignorant and unrepentant, from under the trampling hoofs of PETER AUGUSTUS PORTER'S COW. He has not yet learned that the friends of a foe of Mr. ROOSEVELT must be made to suffer for the public good. Such men cannot be efficient. They are untrue to the loftiest of all principles, allegiance to The Man Who Is Always

In the present perplexing conditions no one could possibly be as sane as FAIRBANKS manages to look.

Two Louisiana deputy sheriffs have been arrested on a charge of manslaughter growing out of their failure to save a prisoner from a mob. If they are convicted it is likely that other peace officers in the State will find their resources for protecting prisoners suddenly enlarged. Nothing more effectively incites a public official to enthusiastic performance of his duty than the probability that he will go to jail if he neglects that duty.

The Raid on Concealed Weapons.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You did no answer the first and most vital question in my letter vesterday: Was the law under which men have been held up at the point of a pistol during the last few days in the search for concealed weapons when was it enacted; if the latter, whither are we wandering?

Assuming for the sake of argument that a num her of the poor wretches so held up got together and raised sufficient money to sue Gen. Bingham what are the chances of their receiving decent treat ment at court, to say nothing of a fair trial? NEW YORK, April 19.

The law is written, and is in Section 315 of The chances of any man getting justice in the courts of the State of New York are ex-

The King's Full Title.

From the London Standard The full title of Chulalongkorn, King of Stam who has just sailed for France, is: "Most high, illustrious, invincible and powerful crowned with 101 golden crowns, each adorned with nine species of precious gems, great est, purest and most divine master of in who sees all things, Sovereign-Emperor under the shadow of whose wings lies the rich and ncomparable Kingdom of Slam, King, to whom is subject the most faultful of all lands lit by the sun. greatest of lords, whose palace is of fine gold and ms, divine master of the golden thrones, and of the white and red elephants. Sovereign god of the nine kinds of gods. King who is like unto the sun at its senith and like the full moon, King whose glance is more dazzling than the orb of the morning. King who is above all emperors, monarchs and setting sun.

The Forthcoming Fourth Yes, Independence Day, my boy,

And you shall have your share of joy Of patriotic cheer. I'll bring you home a brand new sleigh And sharpen up your skates

And on the millpond you shall play With all your little mates. And, as with boyish giee you run And glide upon the glare,

And over on the vacant ground A fort of snow we'll plan, And I will be the Hes And you the Minute Man.

Once crossed the Delaware.

We'll wallow deeply in the snow And think of Valley Forge-The wintry wallowings and wee Of the Immortal George.

And we must not forget, my son, A duty that we owe: Before the glorious day is done We'll to the village go,

And, gathered snugly round the red Hot fire of oak and birch, We'll hear the Declaration said In the basement of the church.

Regarded in Europe as Evidence of Our Increasing International Influen

BRUSSELS, April 12 .-- A prominent banker and capitalist of Paris, one of the group interested in the exploitation of the French African colonies, stated to the correspondent of THE SUN that the entrance of Mr. Thomas F. Ryan and his associates into the field of African development was regarded as one of the most important movements in many years.

"Although there is some of the usual talk about the 'Yankee invasion,'" he said, "there are some solid reasons why European investors in foreign countries are glad of this movement. For one thing, we regard it as evidence of confidence in the commercial and financial stability of our colonies. Then, too, it affords us the opportunity to demonstrate to the Americans the need of reliable and responsible government in the undeveloped parts of the world where European or American capital may be invested.

"For example, when Americans have sub stantial investments in any of our African colonies they can better appreciate our desire for responsible and conservative government in South America, where some of us have very large interests. We know that the Americans have no political intentions in Africa, so that their commercial nterests in that continent will stand related to the European Powers exactly as our commercial interests across the Atlantic are related to American Powers Hence we feel that the Ryan movement toward Africa gives us somewhat of a guarantee of a substantial nature for fair play all around.

An English capitalist largely interested Africa when told the views of the Paris inancier practically agreed with him.

"We have found Americans very useful to us in South Africa," he said, "especially such men as John Havs Hammond and Gardiner Williams. The Americans have a vast territorial expanse for studying economic geological questions not possessed by any European Power at home, and so they are especially competent to help discover the resources of Africa. It is likely that American investments in the Congo will lead to conservatism of government and improvement in many ways. Some Englishmen have professed to see in this movement only a clever ruse of King Leopold to checkmate possible British hostility, but it is absurd to suppose that the American Government will allow itself to become entangled in African affairs because of the interests of a few capitalists. As a matter of fact there is much British capital interested in the richest mineral portion of the longo, and our interests will probably be identical with those of the Americans as far as our relations to the Congo Government are concerned."

It is expected in Brussels that the American expeditions will reach the interior of Africa about the first of June. The expedition in charge of Mr. Verner will begin levelopment work immediately, a steamer having been obtained for its use, and a new town is to be laid off somewhere near Stanley Pool. The members of this expedition are Messrs. Pope and Andrews, Americans. and Bertrand and De Jahr, Belgians, besides others to follow soon. The Geological and Mineralogical Survey under S. H. Ball, late of the United States Geological Survey, has secured as expeditionary chief R. Dorsey Mohun, formerly of the United States Navy and for several years an officer in the Congo Government. The latter expedition will be occupied at first in general reconnoissance work, to prepare for actual exploitation later.

A JOLT FROM FRANCE.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The Government of France is showing some disposition to disturb the existing trade relations between that country and the United States. It is reported that this course is due primarily to the failure of our Congress thus far to take action upon the reciprocity treaty signed by John A. Kasson and Jules Cambon in July, 1899. If that is the case it can only be said that the French mind has been slow in grasping and realizing the fact that the Kasson-Cambon convention was some time ago immured and buried with others of its kind in a crypt provided for the remains of dead treaties. It is more probable that France has an eye on our negotiations with Germany and fears that the outcome of the affair may be prejudicial to her interests. It is to be regretted that she has chosen Porto Rico's coffee as one of her points of attack.

France adopted the dual tariff system in 1892. Pursuant to section 3 of the tariff act of 1897 President McKinley, on May 30, 1898, gave effect to the present arrangement under which there is a mutual exchange of limited concessions. Probably with the hope of frightening us into some more comprehensive arrangement which would place her on at least an equal footing with Germany, France is making a little display of a tariff jack-o'-lantern. Under our present system she has, just as Germany has, a little stronger hand than ours. We have no adequate basis for trading propositions and we have no means of retaliation. If we used the dual tariff system, as France and Germany do, we should hold the master cards. The condition is not yet serious, but it is probable that ere long we shall find it advisable to adopt the dual system now so generally employed by other lands.

Our trade with France during the calendar year 1906 consisted of exports, \$103,623,431, and of imports, \$119,900,329, an increase of \$21,000,000 in exports and \$47,000,000 in imports since 1900. About two-thirds of our exports are represented by raw cotton, copper and oil. An important part of the remainder is composed of raw materials, which France buys because she wants them and can obtain them to better advantage from us than from any other country. Her purchases of food supplies are comparatively unimportant, and her purchases of manufactured goods are not extensive. We buy from France something like \$40,000,000 worth a year of silks, wines, furs, gems and art works. We bought last year \$14,000,000 worth of cotton laces, edgings, embroideries, &c. So far as the general trade is concerned it might be said that we buy luxuries from France, while she buys necessaries from us.

We are not in any fear of a trade war with France; but, coming on the heels of the German matter, her gentle notice to us carries at least a suggestion to such of our lawmakers as take any interest in over-

The Horseshoe Over the Door. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I had

draughtsman working for me some time ago who kept a horseshoe over his table this way: 1. I told him it was wrong and that his luck would run out. Shortly afterward his house and contents were destroyed by fire. No insurance. He told me was right, and turned the shoe over. Doesn's this nt prove how the shoe should be turned? NEW YORK, April 18.

A Historical Comparison. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sic. The

mind of President Roosevelt is like the mind of Napoleon from 1796 to 1814. It knows no rest save change in occupation. AUBURN, April 18.

FIELD AND SIEGE GUNS.

What the Powers Are Doing to Increase Ranges and Rapidity of Fire.

In its development the infantry rifle o musket rapidly outran the field artillery gun and it is interesting to note the steps in the process in order to determine the further mprovements desirable in these arms of the service, especially the artillery gun. The earlier firearms resembled field guns in general character, but the more portable weapon soon asserted its superiority and became the model for the field gun.

In adopting percussion firing, rifling of the bore, breech loading, metallic cartridge cases, reduction of calibre, rapidity of fire, magazine loading and automatic mechanisms, the musket outstripped the field gun, and the field gun has not yet caught up with it. But the time has come when the artillery piece is reaching the degree of perfection attained by the rifle.

The similarity in the tactical uses of the weapons is the explanation of their similarity of development; both are used for practically the same ultimate purpose, namely, to de-stroy the live material of the enemy, the difference being merely that the field gun is to be used at longer ranges.

The field gun has been hampered by its dependence on single shots, a disadvantage which there was an endeavor to overcome by means of the shower of bullets from shrapnel, but it is difficult to place shrapnel where it shall be most effective, while against modern armored field guns it is entirely power-Hence, artillerists have again reverted to the percussion shell, but the trouble is to get a sufficient number of hits.

Recent wars have shown that, even with superiority of artillery, hours of percussion fire alone will not silence the enemy's batteries unless the mass of shots is so great as to cause demoralization. It is the high explosive shell that accomplishes this with the modern rapid fire field piece. After getting the range the pouring in of 200 or 300 shots in five or six minutes will produce an effect which no human nerves can stand. There has been much said about covered

positions and indirect fire, but the spirit of the offensive demands clear view and direct fire; and just as the infantry or cavalry must expose itself to obtain victory and depend on ts own fire action for its best protection, so too must the artillery.

If the field artillery depends too much on overed positions the infantry will have to suffer, because the field artillery will not effectively perform its function of preparation

for the infantry assault. The high explosive combined shrapnel and shell, as it is prepared for modern field artillery, is the best solution of the problem, and promises to bring the field artillery piece on a level with the infantry rifle, and up to

its work in battle. The modern field gun, with its spade on the rail to hold it in place and its recoil cylinder to take up the recoil of the gun tube, with out disturbing the position of the gun on the ground, so as to enable it to retain its aim on any target for any number of shots, has made it a rapid fire piece, especially as it is also provided with springs which send the gun tube back into the firing position after each shot The United States field artillery has a cur

which is second to none in the armies of the world. Germany is just completing her armament in that respect. In order to give her field artillery opportunity to have its practice firing in all kinds of country. Germany has just ordered that the artillery regiments shall change their practice grounds every year. There are now fourteen practice grounds for the field artillery, and to each two or three regiments are assigned every

Now that Germany has effected her rearmament in field artillery, France is considering whether her ninety-two guns to the army corps can meet on an equal footing he 144 of a German army corps, especially since the Russo-Japanese war has indicated the front to be extended to four or five miles for each army corps, leaving plenty of room for more artillery. The French have decided to solve the problem not by increasing the number of guns in a battery from four to six again, but by increasing the number of batteries. To obtain the proper number of duction of her cavalry.

Nearly all nations have now adopted the recoil cylinder and gun recoil system (in which the gun itself recoils in a cradle) for the field artillery; and now it is generally proposed to adopt the same system for field howitzers and mountain guns. The United States already has this material, and Germany has decided on the system for its howit zers, but most of its mountain artillery is still

of the old pattern. France, too, has obsolete howitzers and mountain artillery, but is considering the question of a new mountain gun. A gun is now being tried and is reported ready for adoption. Its calibre is 2.56 inches, its maxi mum range 5,468 yards, and it can be carried complete on five pack animals, the heavies oad on each being about 220 pounds. It has no shield, but one can be fitted later.

The mechanism is peculiar in that the shot is fired while the gun tube is at its maximum velocity moving forward (after recoil, actu ated by counter recoil springsy into the loading position, and the force of recoil is thus partially used up in overcoming the forward energy of the gun; in other words, the forward movement of the gun tends to lessen the force of recoil, and thus reduces the total amount of recoil, a very important point in a gun to fired in mountainous country, where very high elevations are often necessary.

In fact it has been found difficult to con struct gun carriages for firing at very high elevations, because of the danger that the great recoil at such elevations will cause the gun to strike the ground in the rear.

The heavy artillery, position guns for field artillery as well as the regular siege artillery, has been developed in almost every army until to-day there is unanimity of opinion on the subject, and nearly all armies use modern armament of this kind

France, however, is still behindhand. No nany years ago, when she adopted her 4.72 inch short gun, she was in advance of the world's armies, but to-day that piece is obsolete. However, a short 6 inch gun, with gun recoil and protective shields, has been constructed, and is to be adopted, but mainly as a siege gun. There appears to be a tendency in France to have but two guns to a battery hereafter, for both siege and field batteries. The enormous supply of ammunition required by modern field guns would appear to favor this, inasmuch as the two guns (with modern appliances) can fire as fast as four could until quite recently, and the other two guns could be better replaced, as far as their space required in the train of the army is concerned,

The Russo-Japanese war has furnished the nost recent data on the subject of big naval guns, and has already caused changes in armament.

The question of battle ranges for the navy has not been settled, however, inasmuch as in the Spanish-American war the shorter ranges, of 3,000 yards diminishing to 2,000 and even 1,500, were used, while in the Russo-Japanese war, although on February 9, 1904, the ranges were more than 8,000 yards, and the battles preceding Tsushima were all fought at very long ranges, at Tsushima Togo again changed his tactics and fought at 3,800 yards, to the great surprise of the Russians, who had calculated on a long range fight

In armament an increase of calibre has bee gradually progressing, especially as regards the guns of medium calibre (from 4 to 8 inches) The increased value of the heavy calibre guns, as well as the mechanical improvements in loading, has led to the entire suppression of the guns of medium calibre. Most nations

have already decided to replace them with big guns. The smaller calibre guns (rapid fire) are still needed to keep off torpedo boats, but those of medium calibre do not pay for the

extra weight required. The fighting ranges have gone up from 3,000 to 6,500 or 8,500 yards, and consequently the medium artillery can no longer produce any effect in battle. The Italian naval experts advocated at first a calibre of twelve

inches for the heavy guns, and each battle-

ship was to have twelve of these guns; but

lately they are advocating 16 inch guns, of

which each battleship is to have four, an ranged in rhomboid form. In England the France an 11 inch gun is advocated by some experts, but with a high muzzle veloc although the Chief Engineer of the French Navy advocates 12 inch guns, eighteen to a battleship. Finally, the new Japanese battle. ships are to have twelve 12 inch guns

THE PRESS IN CRIMINAL TRIALS Is Delay in Publishing Testimony Desired by Newspaper Readers :

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: 1 9801 he last paragraph of your article on the subject of the Thaw jury in these words "It is to be hoped that the next trial of this tinsavory case will be short if not sweet that the defendant will be muzzled during the trial, and that the jury will maintain a decent silence after it is all over." all decent minded people will respond, Amen!
And all such people will go further and pray that the newspapers will maintain a decent silence during the progress of the trial or be muzzled as well as the defendant, either by a common agreement among themselves of by order of the Court. I doubt not every editor deprecates what

seems to be a journalistic necessity for publishing all the prurient stories told not only n the Thaw trial but in all other trials in which testimony is necessarily given out of which such nastiness must flow.

I am willing to believe that the press would gladly escape such a journalistic necessity, but that no single paper can without being open to the charge of not publishing the news, that the other papers will, and supposedly will enjoy a business advantage posedly will enjoy a business ad it is my opinion that the paper that vertise at the commencement of

vertise at the commencement of trial that it will not print any of testimony will have a very large Of course the courts must be open to the people, as that is a fundamental p of our government; but while abridge that right of the public do recommend a rule that would, effectually put an end to such pub Let the newspapers send their reporters such trials and take full notes of the mony, but let there be a rule of law order of the Court—if the Court has power—that no word of the obnoxious mony should be published until a very disagreement has been promulgated thereafter, if the papers think that su erature would be of interest to their rethey would be free to publish it; and if the courts could not issue such a rule enforce it, or the city papers will not on such a rule and respect it, then the on such a rule and respect it, then the next Legislature should, in the cause of common decency, be petitioned—for which a hundred thousand names could be obtained—to enact a law forbidding such testimony.

New York, April 19. Albert Granger

WAR NOT WANTED.

When It Comes, the Politicians Are I sually at the Bottom of It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It may ot be amiss just now to say that one of the best guarantees of peace is the cultivation of the idea of peace. The people have normally no wish for war. Artful politicians excite a desire for war to suit their own ambitious schemes. Our recent unpleasantness with Spain might have been avoided, but both Democratic and Republican politicians were cultivating the war spirit for selfish reasons. and President McKinley was swept along in the current. Roosevelt tells us in his "Rougi Riders" how diligently he and Dr. Worked for war and intended to get share of it if it should come. The per and not the promoters of war, are the and not the promoters of war, are the ones who suffer most from it. Prior to the war with Spain we were excited by stories of suffering from Weylerism in Cuba, all true, no doubt, but spread and published and depicted and harped on for the purpose of bringing us to the necessary point of frenzy in order to float the war scheme.

Our people, while willing to fight in any good cause at the drop of the hat, much prefer peace. Men who have been real and not in soldiers, rodest fighters like Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, who never bellowed and pawed

soldiers, Bodest fighters like Grant, Shand Sheridan, who never bellowed and the ground, but attended strictly to duty, and said that "War is hell," are the to urge war, and the first to step to the A man with the right amount of ballast as

A man with the right amount of ballsst as well as sand, and also enough gumption to confine his attention to the business that he was commissioned to do, and not graft on a whatever a fertile imagination and official spirit may suggest, is the man we should have for President. If we mind our own business we shall keep out of trouble EDMUND R. Dodge.

NEW YORK, April 19.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN- Sir: At the r election in London sixty two women were cha as Poor Law Guardians, and of these twenty nine led the ticket in their respective distric-Miss Emily Bissell, in her address against equal suffrage the other day, said that there were already forty-six local school boards in New York State which have women members." There are sovers a bill was introduced to provide that there should be one or more women on each school board, the Albany Anti Suffrage Association protested against it as legislation that "threatens the home, threatens

Church, and undermines the foundation of One of the first results of the granting of cours suffrage in Colorado was a great increase in the number of women serving on educational boards.

ALICE STONE BLACKWILL DORCHESTER, Mass., April 18.

Supreme Court Levity From the Washington Sta

It is not often that one hears a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States make a re mark in levity while he is attired in his robes of dignity and is sitting on the bench, which, in fact, is not a bench at all, but a soft cushloned leather covered easy chair. But the unexpected did hap pen last Monday when decisions were being handed down. Mr. Justice Holmes was the perpetrator

the joke, which was a very mild one. Mr. Holmes had the fortune (or the mistering of announcing the decision of the court in the of David Kawananakoa, Jonah Ratania taris Abigale W. Kawananakoa and Elizabeth K. Ka'a nianaole against Ellen Albertina Polybland an others. Mr. Holmes hesitated, and aithough a nouncing a decision of the supreme tribunsi of land was obliged to acknowledge that he would have to forego the form of pronouncing the name. He spoke in a low tone of voice and said, as a smile

played about his lips:
"This is case No. 273, but I will not undertake to pronounce the names of the appellants, which are matter of record." He then proceeded to explain the decis

the court. The dilemma in which he was throw by the unpronounceable names did not cause sympathetic risible on the physiognomy the Justices except in the case of Mr. McKenna, but the assembled attorneys colored the situation thoroughly

> Mistake in Labels. From the Washington Herald

A Washingtonian recently returned from a vell o relatives in rural Georgia brings back a strange story. He visited a country school in the Goobe State and was astonished to see a large sign photograph of President Roosevelt labelled "the Hon. Hoke Smith." There is no more resemblance between the President and Georgia's Governor elect than there is between George Bruce Corte) on and William Jennings Bryan. Inquiry by the Washingtonian developed

fact that some of the school children found the photograph in the road, and realizing it to b pleture of some mighty man, and Hoke about that time just having been elected Gov his name was written under the counterfel sentment of the President. Neither man has a been seen by anybody living in that part of Good The Washingtonian, with rare delicacy, did no destroy the bappy Illusion of the children or their teacher.

A queer case of collective temporary not a aberration, of which an entire family were "? victims, is reported from Le Mans as having curred at Bellevilliers, on the borders of the Sai and the Orne departments. A family of six pri sons had made their midday luncheon on Sunday and shortly after all abandoned themselves to extraordinary freaks. One woman spent the afternoon washing her hands under the del that they were dirty, another made he lumber heap, and two men kept loading a wag with soil and then emptying it. Another went drive imaginary cows and kept seeing non ex istent balloons, while the youngest roamed about with one boot on and the other of. Toward even

ning all resumed their usual same composition

The hero had just taken up the gauntiet for the "Just wait," murmured the benedlets; "In as-

Thus does real life break in on sweet romance.